

75 years of adventure

at America's oldest Boy Scout camp



Honor past, fete future

Scouting can shape our tomorrows today through a distinctive program that provides substantial values to youth members with carry-over values into adult life.

Scouting has changed over the years to meet the needs of society, but the spirit of scouting remains the same as when Lord Baden-Powell penned the lines of the Scout Oath or Promise, "On my honor, I will do my best..."

—1985 Annual Report
Chicago Area Council
Boy Scouts of America

Owasippe Scout Reservation, celebrating 75 years of serving boys, adults and families, is a proud example of Boy Scouting at its best.

Owasippe stands as a unique monument to boys and the scouting program. As the oldest continuously operating camp in the country, it continues to serve both.

During the summer of 1986, Owasippe remembers its past and celebrates its future.

We invite you to join in this celebration as you take a trip to Owasippe through the pages of this anniversary newspaper.

You will meet, through words and pictures, those who enriched Owasippe's past. You will visit the new programs Owasippe offers to every member of every scouting family.

In 1911, the tradition of Owasippe began. It continues today in 1986.

Welcome to the world of Boy Scouts where youth and adults working together have shaped the past and are planning for the future.

Welcome to Owasippe in 1986 and the beginning of the next 75 years.

Good neighbors celebrate 75 years

Camp Owasippe and Whitehall go back a long way. For over 75 years the town has helped the Scouts develop their camp, and the Scouts have helped the town grow and prosper economically.

"Owasippe is one of the biggest resorts we've got," said John Klinefelter, a native of Whitehall and owner of the town's Ben Franklin store.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Chicago Area Council have worked together since the camp's inception, and the results

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Owasippe memories... building blocks for tomorrow

Do you remember bobcat trails, deadheads and Josephine Hercik McCabe?

In what year was the Museum founded?

What is a "Dueces Wild?"

In 75 years a lot of people, names and events have passed through Owasippe Scout Reservation. Some serve only to mark a special date in the camp's history. Others are the stuff of high adventure and romance. And still others signify personal milestones in the lives of the many boys who spent their summers on the shores of Crystal Lake.

The Early Years, 1910 to 1929

The very early history of the Boy Scout movement is closely connected to the beginnings of the Owasippe Scout Reservation.

William D. Boyce, a Chicago newspaper publisher, brought the idea of scouting to this country from England in early 1910. On February 8 of that year, he and a group of men in Washington, D.C., founded the Boy Scouts of America.

A. Stanford White, an architect, was one of

that founding group. He also became the first Chicago Council president and presented to the Council the idea of a camp outside of Whitehall, Mich.

The Council accepted the Whitehall Chamber of Commerce's gift of 40 acres on Crystal Lake, and Camp Owasippe became the first Boy Scout camp in the United States. Since then, approximately half a million boys have camped there.

Losing no time, the Council physically established the camp in the summer of 1911. A small group of Scouts and workmen cleared the site that season, digging a well and erecting a mess tent. They also gave the camp its name.

In those early days, camping was an extraordinary experience for the city boy. Not only did he spend a week or two in the wilderness, far from the conveniences of home and Mother, but even getting there was high adventure.

First the Scouts boarded a steamship, the S.S. Carolina, in the Chicago River and then crossed 85 or so miles of Lake Michigan. It must have seemed like the ocean itself once

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Now

Boy Scouts COPE with fun, adventure

How can you keep older boys interested in the scouting program?

Offer them the Ultimate Challenge: Project COPE. It is high adventure activity geared for fun and excitement.

More than 1,000 Scouts have earned their certificates, patches and "I Survived the Ultimate Challenge" T-shirts at Owasippe Scout Reservation where Project COPE is heading into its fourth year.

Regular Sunday promotions during the camping season keep the interest level high, says Mike Hughes, a district Scout executive and former director of Project COPE. (Challenging Outdoor Physical Encounters).

The event is offered each year for two or three days during the regular camping season to those troops ready for it. To be eligible, Scouts must be at least 14 years old, in good health, and have had three years long-term camping experience.

"The Scouts' personal growth is Project COPE's aim," Hughes explains. "But unlike the methods of some adventure education programs, there is no attempt to unveil personal weaknesses. This is high adventure and fun. It brings the group together. They learn to trust and rely on each other."

There are seven major goals inherent in the Ultimate Challenge: leadership, problem solving, communication, self-esteem, trust, decision making and teamwork.

Staff training to facilitate the event is given at the National Camp School and the emphasis is on safety. The director and staff are taught all the safety steps according to standards set by a national task force for COPE.

There is a certain mystique surround-

ing the project. Scouts are urged to pass the word, but not the experience.

"We don't want them to share the solutions," Hughes explains.

Project COPE can be classified as a group of incentive games which involves climbing, swinging, balancing, propelling and other learned physical skills.

Low-course activity provides group challenges. High-course activity tests individual skills and agility.

The Challenging Outdoor Physical Encounters are lifted from the ordinary by giving each Scout a particular handicap to contend with while participating in some of the events. The handicaps could be the inability to see or to speak.

"The staff's goal is to see that the Scouts go through the events safely," Hughes says.

The success of the Ultimate Challenge: Project COPE, is manifest in the request by Scouts for a second part to the program.

Wilfred Lopez, leader of Troop #787 at Our Lady of Guadalupe on the Southeast side of Chicago, has taken a few of his Scouts through the Ultimate Challenge and one is now urging other members of the troop to join him in going through the program again this summer.

"What he wants is another challenge...to keep going. It's a great program," Lopez says, and he would like to see it expanded.

"Unfortunately, money is being channelled into other directions right now and we do not have funds to go ahead with a second part at this time," Hughes says.

But no one is giving up. That is the next challenge.

Falling backward into arms a Scout hopes are there is an exercise in trust. And it's more—it's excitement and high adventure as these Scouts take part in the Ultimate Challenge: Project COPE. A program at Owasippe for older Scouts, COPE offers personal growth through challenging outdoor physical encounters. (Capitalize those last four words and what word do you have?) Through COPE, boys learn to trust and rely on each other.



Moms, sons share diverse 'fabulous' experience

For the first three hours of the trip to the Owasippe Scout Reservation, Laurie Barretto was "seething mad."

Not because she didn't want to go, but because she had discovered she would be sleeping in a tent. Being of sound mind and city body, the Chicagoan did not consider herself the "outdoorsy" type.

Sleeping accommodations, however, were not about to bar her from a long-awaited opportunity to vacation with her 9-year-old son, Mike, for a week.

A single parent, Ms. Barretto recalled how she had complained to friends about the lack of activities for her and her son to participate in on a long-term basis. Sure, they could visit the zoo or park together, but she wanted more, something that would enrich their relationship.

When she learned of Mom-and-Me Camp for moms and their Boy Scout or Cub Scout sons at Owasippe's Camp Carlen, she had no choice but to go and take advantage of the very thing for

which she had been searching.

And, boy, Scout, is she glad she did!

Not only did she and her son have an economical vacation, but together they also shared "an experience unlike any other."

After checking in, Ms. Barretto and Mike transferred their gear to their tent, where they discovered a wood platform and two cots. Sleeping bags, mosquito netting and other—in Ms. Barretto's words—"foreign objects" were unpacked.

Next, all campers participated in a swim test to rate their levels of expertise, and they were briefed on Michigan and Owasippe camp rules. Dinner followed.

That night as she lay in bed, Ms. Barretto thought how tired and uncomfortable she was; that was her last thought for the night.

The following week featured a full schedule of activities, including permission to work on merit badges. Moms, too, could obtain "mom badges." All ac-

tivities, however, were not mandatory. Campers could fritter away the time reading beside the olympic-size pool or walking in the woods. No one had to do anything.

Not to be outdone, Ms. Barretto worked bravely to earn badges, and she participated in many of the activities with Mike. One was making a bird feeder. Ms. Barretto recalled thinking, "Oh, yeah, sure. Build a bird feeder."

The first task was to find a pine cone. "Gee, I can do that," Ms. Barretto said she thought to herself.

Next, she slathered the cone with peanut butter, rolled it in seeds and hung it in a tree, where birds soon found it and began feeding.

"It worked!" declared Ms. Barretto.

Feeling successful, she joined a tour led by a camp naturalist who pointed out birds, flowers and leaves. When the

group discovered a sassafras tree, they dug its roots and later brewed sassafras tea. Ms. Barretto's description of the afternoon: "Fascinating."

Another activity, though, made Mike's mom think "I was gonna die": they were to learn how to fire a rifle!

"I went along with it because my curiosity was piqued. Besides, I thought, guns exist and you might as well learn proper usage and safety techniques."

To her surprise the lesson proved "informative and interesting."

Archery, however, became her strong suit. It was the first sport she ever felt good at, so she included it in her daily routine.

Some of the badges she garnered were orienteering, fire-building, cooking, fishing, physical exercise, knots, naturalist, and axes, saws and knives. The

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Volunteers and professionals

Unique partnership makes Owasisippe run

When Stephen J. Horvath, Jr. makes a recommendation to the Camping Committee of the Chicago Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, he has something to back it up. It's not just his 11 years as chairman; nor does it stem from a complete family involvement in scouting. It goes even further, back through 41 years of participation, back to his entry into Chicago Troop 791 in 1945.

Dr. Horvath epitomizes the volunteer, one-half of a unique partnership that exemplifies the scouting movement.

"It's volunteers and professionals working together to provide the leadership which gives the youth membership a premier camping program at a premier camp," Dr. Horvath said.

That premier camp — Owasisippe Scout Reservation near Whitehall, Mich. — this summer is observing 75 years of service to Indiana and Illinois Scouts and their families.

"Neither (volunteer and professional) can succeed alone," Dr. Horvath continued. The volunteer gives input as to direction and service, with the advice and leadership of the professionally trained staff of the Chicago Area Council, he said.

The consistency of a sound working relationship between both partners is responsible for the program's growth. Dr. Horvath noted changes in professional advisers through the years, brought about by their own growth within the scouting profession. But the firm base of volunteerism has compensated for such changes.

The Camping Committee's 15 members range in age from 25 through the 60s; they are bankers, lawyers, maintenance engineers, school administrators and contractors. And, they are aggressive and active, a "working" committee, one that "gets into the nitty-gritty," according to the chairman.

"That's one reason the program is viable and flexible," Dr. Horvath said. He explained that the group works with the director of camping, the director of support services and their personnel in facility and property development, and on maintenance and program development.

The Camping Committee is responsible for developing policy; giving general direction to the operation of the camping program at Owasisippe, Hoover, Fort Dearborn and Kiwanis camps; and fiscal stewardship. The current budget is about \$1 million.

The past 10 years have seen several improvements in camping facilities, along with new programs. These changes and additions include the following:

- Upgrading the lodge at Fort Dearborn;
- Building a training lodge at Camp Kiwanis;
- Constructing two dining halls at Owasisippe, plus shower buildings;
- New sites at Blackhawk Camp;
- Development of a barrier-free facility for the handicapped;

- Development of Cub Scout, Akela and Mom-and-Me programs;
- Development of Camp Reneker for family and senior citizen camping and as a training center.

Dr. Horvath credits the Owasisippe Staff Association — an organization of former staffers — with many of the ideas and much of the work. He also

explained the development of handicapped and Cub Scout facilities was undertaken during the leadership of past Council President Richard Halpern, managing partner with Schal Associates.

"The Camping Committee recognizes the importance of the volunteer's role and feels an obligation to provide ex-

cellent trained staff and leaders; and modern, up-to-date facilities and equipment," Dr. Horvath observed.

"The committee is carrying on the tradition of excellence of past camping committees. Our goal is not to rest on the laurels of 75 years of success, but to build on the future of our youth to meet the needs of society."

Flexibility is the key: Horvath

"There's no doubt in my mind that the programs offered through scouting do develop character and do provide solid bases for citizenship and community leadership, as well as personal growth."

Stephen J. Horvath, Jr. speaks from experience. The Chicago Area Council vice president became a Boy Scout 41 years ago. He rose through the ranks of Troop 791, earning his Eagle Scout designation; was a staffer at Owasisippe Scout Reservation, working as a White River Voyager, aquatic staff member, assistant director at Camps Stuart, West and Beard; camp director at Camp Wilderness, and associate reservation director for program and adviser for development of the Owasisippe Scout Reservation; and regional camp inspector.

Through the years, Dr. Horvath earned his Wood Badge beads and attended National Camp School Training. Several years ago he received the Silver Beaver Award in recognition of services as a volunteer in the areas of management and camping.

He is currently a member of the Chicago Area Council's board of directors and the executive committee, and he is chairman of the Camping Committee. A resident of

Palos Heights, he is superintendent of Atwood Heights School District 125.

Dr. Horvath spends his summers at Owasisippe Scout Reservation, along with his wife, Terry, who is the director of Camp Reneker. In past years the Horvaths made it a family affair, with all four sons working at Owasisippe.

"There's a role for different groups of people at different levels," Dr. Horvath said. He went on to explain the entry of women in

the scouting movement and called attention to the programs for families, senior citizens, the handicapped, younger boys and even for single parents.

"There's a great foundation to build on for the future. If this has been accomplished in the past, I'd hope this camping committee would continue in the next 75 years to build on that cornerstone," Dr. Horvath said. "Flexibility is the key to the camping program's success."



Gordy Stifel (left), promotion chairman; Dr. Steve Horvath, Jr., Camping Committee chairman, and Charles Nagel, camp inspector, talk over ideas for Owasisippe



Owasisippe 75th

Campers line up for dinner in one of the two dining halls at Owasisippe. The Camping Committee was instrumental in the designing and construction of both new facilities.

Now

Teenagers explore Coed world

When several females set up camp at Owaspippe this summer they will:

- a) probably be from a troop of confused Girl Scouts—after all, everyone knows this is a Boy Scout camp;
- b) probably be a group of fretful moms who just don't trust anyone to take the proper care of their little boys, even at a Boy Scout camp;
- c) probably not last 24 hours—after all, this IS a Boy Scout camp.

If the question and answers above sound unrealistic enough to stretch your imagination, you're half right. The answers may be silly, but the question is based on fact.

This summer, as in past summers, several dozen young women, all members of the Chicago Area Council of Boy Scout Coed Explorers Program, will spend six days camping out, swimming and hiking. In other words, generally enjoying the Camp Owaspippe experience in the same manner that their male counterparts have done for 75 years.

"It's a chance to get away," says Eva Karwiczka, youth chairperson for the Council's Explorer group and a resident of the city's North Austin neighborhood. "It gives all of us an opportunity

to meet other Explorers, people from all over, really, and just have a good time."

Eva is one of approximately 200 boys and girls, 14 through 20, who have elected to stay with scouting via the Coed Explorer Program.

It is a program roughly divided 50-50 between young men and women interested in social and recreational programs that are synonymous with scouting, but who also seek the opportunity to gain some valuable exposure to certain professional careers.

A variety of Explorer programs are offered, including a popular Sea Explorer Program and a Law Enforcement Program offered in conjunction with several Chicago area police departments. A major component of the Explorer program is the chance to observe and, in a limited sense, participate in professional activities under the guidance of a cooperating professional in the field.

Eva says that her experience as an Explorer in the Law Enforcement Program has been an important factor in helping her clarify her professional ambitions.

"I want to do police work," she says in a tone that lets you know she has

given the idea serious thought.

"These are good kids," says Sgt. John Finnegan who, as the Chicago Police Department's 25th District Neighborhood Relations officer, works with Eva's Explorer post. "A lot of them are considering police work as a career and this type of experience lets them see if it is really what they want to do for the rest of their lives."

The opportunity presented by the Explorers for teens to do clerical work, miscellaneous chores and simply observe what happens in a police station can be invaluable, Sgt. Finnegan says.

The six-day outing to Camp Owaspippe is an important adjunct to the program, providing the social and recreational outing the Explorers, like all teenagers, still need.

"The camp is great," says Sgt. Finnegan, who attends Camp Owaspippe with his Explorer post. "No one leaves without having a good time. This is for fun. It gives the kids a chance to get out of the city and try some things like cooking over a fire and boating, things they don't have a chance to try in the city."

And yes, he says, some close friendships among teenagers do develop at

camp. "That's inevitable," he says. But the sergeant explains that most of the Explorers understand the rules of what is, and what is not, permitted at camp.

"Anyhow," he says jokingly, "the boys sleep in tents on one side. The girls sleep on the other. And I'm in the middle keeping watch."

Aside from the social and recreational aspects, Camp Owaspippe's Coed Explorer Program also introduces participants to important aspects of law enforcement work such as crowd control at large gatherings, Sgt. Finnegan says.

"Our Explorers at Owaspippe have been a real value to the whole camp during the rare occasions when a Cub Scout has been temporarily 'misplaced.' Explorers in the Law Enforcement Program have had a chance then to be of real value to the whole camp by helping with the search," Sgt. Finnegan says.

But when it comes down to it, the Camp Owaspippe experience is, for Explorers, primarily recreational.

"I go to Owaspippe for the fun," says Eva. "We try to get everyone in the post to go so we can enjoy it as a group. The camp is just a great way to get away from it all."

National Camp School

Safer camps... ...better leaders

He who can, does.

He who cannot, teaches.

—Bernard Shaw

A lot of professionals may get away with drawing a distinction between the doers and the teachers, but directors of Boy Scout camps don't have it that easy.

They have to prove they can do both.

Each summer the National Camp School program, one of which is held at Owaspippe Scout Reservation, gives outdoor recreational leaders the opportunity to hone old skills, learn new ones, and then go back to their own camping programs to pass on these skills.

"The whole NCS program is one of the most important programs in scouting," Bill Morrison, director of camping at Owaspippe, says. "It could be part of the reason that Boy Scout camps are as successful and as safe as they are."

Since NCS was founded in 1975, hundreds of participants have used Owaspippe's unique terrain and professional staff to earn the certification they need to become qualified Boy Scout camp directors.

Programs, most of which run for six days, zero in on specific skill development and then sharpen the judgment and intuition needed to institute a safe and fun program at their home camps.

"We've participants from all over, not just from the Boy Scouts, in our NCS program," says Mr. Morrison. "Individuals from the YMCA and the Girl Scouts have attended the NCS because the training offered is excellent."

Over the years, Owaspippe has offered

a full array of NCS programs ranging from aquatics, field sports, ecology, conservation and the Camp Commissioner's program, to the innovative Challenging Outdoor Physical Experiments program, better known as COPE. This summer Owaspippe will host the East Central Region's National Camp School COPE program.

In essence, participants at Owaspippe's National Camp School COPE program will have the chance to test their own strengths, abilities and individual stress levels and coping mechanisms in diverse and challenging situations. The program is designed to help leaders recognize their own abilities and levels and, perhaps most importantly, gauge the same levels in others.

"You need a high challenge course for COPE," says Mr. Morrison, "and with its rolling terrain and specially constructed towers and tree platforms, Camp Owaspippe is a natural. The entire COPE idea is a new one for scouting and one that Camp Owaspippe is proud to be a part of."

"But we're very proud of all our other NCS programs as well," he says.

"Each stresses the high ability standards and safety standards that are so important to running safe Boy Scout camps. Camp Owaspippe's program has trained hundreds of individuals with these goals in mind."

"And that is what we intend to do at all of our NCS programs," Mr. Morrison says. "Train people who can then go back to run safe and fun Boy Scout camps."



Hitting the books and checking out the terrain are all in a day's work at National Camp School.



Owaspippe 75th

For the young ...



"Lions and tigers and bears? Oh! No!" Bobcats and Wolves and Bears? Oh! Yes!

Anyone who sights the 8- and 9-year-old Bobcats, Wolves and Bears at Owasippe Scout Reservation August 3-9 won't be dreaming. For the very first time in its history, the Chicago Area Council of Boy Scouts has made it possible for the Cub Scouts to be a part of its summer family of campers.

Of course, there is no yellow brick road leading to Camp Carlen, where the first extended outdoor camp for Cub Scouts will be based. But, there certainly will be a new chapter of adventure, discovery and memories for the Chicago area Cub Scouts who follow the tri-state path to the land of the special camp dubbed Thunderbird.

"We want to give them a taste of what the Boy Scouts have available

each summer," said Nancy Toomey, chairman of the Camp Thunderbird committee.

Attending one of the two sessions of the pilot program will give Cub Scouts "a chance to accomplish some of their achievements and electives through activities that will correlate with the Wolf book and the Bear book," Mrs. Toomey said.

"They will be earning as they have fun," she added, while outlining other positive aspects of Camp Thunderbird: meeting kids from other districts, participating in team sports and individual sports.

Although the Chicago Area Council is the first council in Illinois to set up a "long term camp" for Cub Scouts, it is not the first in the country. Councils in Ohio and Iowa are among those with successful programs.

"The outdoor camping program is becoming more significant in Cub Scouting," said Brock Bigsby, the Chicago Area Council's Director of Support Services. "Some Cub Scout leaders approached us with the idea. The official Boy Scout policy is not to involve boys at such a young age in camping. We had to obtain special permission from the national organization to conduct the

camp," he explained.

Early last fall, Mr. Bigsby approached Mrs. Toomey, whom he described as "an experienced Cub Scout leader with administrative ability and enthusiasm," and asked her to serve as volunteer chairman of the project. Mrs. Toomey is registered as Cub Scout leadership development chairman in Tri-Ridge District.

Mr. Bigsby already had helpful background information for Mrs. Toomey: program materials and recommendations from other councils. "By using the experiences of other successful programs, we would avoid the pitfalls," Mr. Bigsby said.

"After I agreed to the chairmanship, there was an article in *Scouter* magazine that helped me, too," Mrs. Toomey added. "It focused on 'what to expect at camp.'"

"In essence, she will be the director of the camp," said Dave Ross, program director at the Chicago Area Council. He is the professional who has worked along with the committee of planners since last November. "I am making sure everything she needs to fly is there," he said. "We are planning for 80 boys per session. Adult leaders will bring the registration figure to about 120 per ses-

sion."

"Some councils have made the camp a full week," Mrs. Toomey pointed out. "We feel that a week would be too much for the youngsters, so we opted to make it a three-night, four-day experience."

"We will have a good program and a lot of support from the staff at Owasippe. Those that come will be the best advertising for next year," the chairman concluded.

She hopes that Camp Thunderbird may be that positive experience needed to keep a Cub Scout from dropping out of the Scouting program. "Where we may lose them is in transition between Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. We want to keep them in Boy Scouts."



... and the young at heart

They call a cabin home. During their week at camp, they earn Merit Badges. Swimming, archery, fishing and crafts classes fill their days.

Sounds like a typical Boy Scout camp, right? Wrong!

It's Camp Reneker on the Owasippe Scout Reservation in Whitehall, Mich.

"I like the relaxed atmosphere — the fact that we could go off on our own or participate in any activity."

— Anita Platt

— and it's just for mature "Scouts" age 55 and older.

Now in its fourth year, the Senior Citizens Camp is sponsored by the Chicago Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

Although some of the campers were Scouts 40, 50, even 60 years ago, the camp isn't just for former troop members. Any current or former Scouter and/or spouse who was once a registered Cub Scout, Boy Scout, Explorer or adult Scouter can register. In addition, those senior citizens whose children or grandchildren were active in scouting are eligible. Couples and singles are welcome.

According to camp hostess Jo Ann

Accardi of Berwyn, the week has become more popular every year.

"The first year we had 16 people. Sixty came last year. They're coming from all over the United States. We have a couple coming from Vermont, another from Florida," she said.

Although most of the campers are in their 50s and 60s, Jo Ann said, "We did have someone 83 years old last year."

Thirty-nine cabins dot the campground. Each can accommodate four persons. "We'd like to take 60 to 65 people each year," Jo Ann said.

Each cabin has two bedrooms with bunk beds, a living room with a small wood-burning fireplace, a modern kitchen and a small wash-up area. Lavatories with showers and laundry facilities are located about one-half block from the cabins.

The main lodge's store carries milk, bread and treats in addition to some emergency supplies and souvenirs. Only six miles away, in Whitehall, there are several supermarkets.

Part of the camp's attraction is the low cost for a week's worth of fun.

The \$100 per person fee includes the cabin, a daily continental breakfast served by Jo Ann and her husband Frank in the lodge, a camp-wide cook-out and most program activities. The rate is based on double occupancy with \$50 charged for each additional person in the same cabin up to a maximum of

four.

Campers may cook their own meals in their cabins or select meal service at the Reservation cafeteria, located two miles from the cabins. Two inexpensive meal plans are available.

Those who plan to cook their own meals need to bring cooking gear, Jo Ann explained. In addition, campers supply their own bed linen, dining utensils and toilet articles. Jo Ann said clothing is informal, but she stressed the need for good walking shoes and proper attire. "It can get chilly in the evening," she said.

Although a complete physical isn't required, each camper must have a com-

"...played a lot of horse-shoes and did a lot of hiking."

pleted health record form on file at the Health Lodge.

Whether campers want lots of activity or lots of relaxation, Camp Reneker offers a choice.

Campers may take swimming lessons, learn new crafts, fish, play horseshoes, golf at a nearby course, play tennis, learn to handle a rifle or bow and arrow, swim or sightsee.

Or they can just sit and relax. In fact campers earn a "Shoes Off Merit

Badge" for "taking (their) shoes off and just resting and relaxing in (their) cabin," Jo Ann said. "It's a week of relaxing, a time for enjoying a lot of fellowship."

Two-time participants, Seymour and Anita Platt of Northbrook, agreed.

"I like the way it was organized," Anita commented. "I like the relaxed atmosphere — the fact that we could go off on our own or participate in any activity."

Anita said she used the camp's pool frequently and both Seymour and she "played a lot of horseshoes... and did a lot of hiking." Seymour practiced target shooting on the rifle range and learned how to handle a bow and arrow during his two stays at the camp.

Although Anita was a Girl Scout leader and had taken her troop to camp before, Seymour wasn't a camper, she said. But he was "pleasantly surprised."

"There were a lot of good people there," he noted. "The people are very warm," Anita added. "You could have privacy if you wanted it and camaraderie if you want it."

This year's Senior Citizens Camp will be held August 17 to 23. For more information on this scouting experience for the more mature, contact Frank or Jo Ann Accardi at 312-795-5132, after 6 p.m. on weekdays or the Chicago Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, at 312-559-0990 during business hours.

Now

Owasippe takes down the barriers

Camping for physically handicapped Scouts can be an uncomfortable, if not impossible, experience.

However, now the 937 handicapped youngsters in Chicago Area Council Scout troops can join able-bodied members of their troops at summer camp.

Two years ago, officials at the Chicago Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, made Campsite 4 at Camp Carlen barrier-free. This handicapped accessible facility is part of the Owasippe Scout Reservation in Whitehall, Mich.

According to Brock Bigsby, Director of Support Services, the Council worked with Chicago agencies for the handicapped to construct the campsite. The Chicago Rehabilitation Institute, Easter Seals and the Association for the Retarded "guided us along the way. They

gave us advice about what we should and shouldn't do," Mr. Bigsby said.

At Owasippe, paved paths lead between the tents, washrooms and program areas. The latrine and shower facilities were also adapted to accommodate wheelchairs.

The reconstruction of Campsite 4 is part of the Boy Scouts' effort to "mainstream" handicapped individuals into troops with non-handicapped Scouts, said Mr. Bigsby.

"All the programs (at Owasippe) are run in such a way that they can participate," he commented.

During the July and August summer camps, physically disabled Scouts join in archery, canoeing, nature studies, swimming and boating, Mr. Bigsby said. Like their able-bodied counterparts, handicapped Scouts also learn such

camping skills as tent preparation, building a fire and outdoor cooking.

In its initial year about 100 handicapped Scouts used the facility.

Jeff Patterson of Troop 378, Tinley Park, was among the first to utilize the campsite. Jeff, who uses braces, crutches and a wheelchair "wasn't able to maneuver around at other summer camps," his mother said.

When his Scoutmaster Ron Brown, suggested Camp Carlen, Jeff was skeptical. "He said he would only stay three days," his mother recalled. "But he was delighted (with the camp)."

"I like it. I enjoy the camp for my own benefit," Jeff commented. "It's time to get away from everything."

Like all the other Scouts, Jeff slept in a tent. He also participated in the planned programs, including archery,

swimming and craft classes.

One of the special features he and all the other Scouts enjoyed at Camp Carlen were the hot showers.

"The camp was exceptionally nice. I didn't expect it to be so nice," he said. "I was really amazed that a campsite would have sidewalks. It's really nice that they put bars in their washrooms. I'm going back for a whole week!"

Mr. Bigsby said the Owasippe camp is one of two facilities for the handicapped run by the Chicago Area Council. The other is a barrier-free cabin located at Hoover Scout Reservation in Yorkville, Ill. This reservation is open year-around for Scout troops to enjoy.

Ramps replaced steps at this barrier-free cabin. In addition, Mr. Bigsby noted, the cabin's doorways were expanded to accommodate wheelchairs. The restroom facilities were also expanded for wheelchair access and were equipped with bars in the stalls.

"We want to make the scouting program available to whoever wants to participate, regardless of the hand they were dealt," Mr. Bigsby said.

Where do old staffers go? They join Owasippe Staff Association

Former Owasippe staff members don't fade away. They become members of the Owasippe Staff Association.

OSA is a lively organization of 300 that, for a new membership of \$10 (renewals are \$5 and it's \$100 to join for a lifetime), keeps those who have enjoyed the Owasippe experience in touch with each other.

To help Owasippe celebrate its 75th anniversary this summer, OSA will have a homecoming August 1-3 at the camp.

In addition to exchanging photos and memories, OSA members and their families are invited to take part in the dedication of the new field sports ranges,

boat on Lake Wolverine, attend a special banquet, swim in the Wolverine pool, tour the camp and attend an OSA campfire.

The homecoming registration fee is \$2 for an individual; \$5 for a family.

In addition to planning the OSA reunion at Owasippe, the organization's officers are busy developing an Owasippe archive of photographs and collecting S & H green stamps to assist in the purchase of camping program and maintenance equipment.

OSA members Mary Nezda Pezdek and Terry Horvath are coordinating the collection of stamps.

Every Owasippe camper remembers the fun of singing camp songs in the dining room after a meal. Cleanup goes faster with a song led by an Owasippe staff member and a guitar.



Mike O'Reilly is coordinating the collection of old photographs. Mike said they are especially interested in photos of Whit's Log Cabin Store, Double O, Beard Dining Hall and Health Lodge, Saddle Bags, Stern's Lodge and the Stuart Dining Hall and Blockhouse. Call Mike at 312-385-9318 if you can help locate these photographs.

OSA has a number of members who met while working at Owasippe and married. Bill Schaefer's "OSA Book of Lists and Records" lists this group of staffers who met and married: Mike Drazba and Chris Sanchez; Mary Witzleb and Tim Fass; Ron Kulak and Marilyn Young; Mary Allyn Chevin and Tom McCormack; Chauncey Niziol and Mary Beth Accardi; Linda Hanson and Pat Monahan and Mike O'Reilly and Mary Kay Mays;

Also listed as former staffers who married: Mary Fay Nezda and Ron Pezdek; Edgar Wolf-Klammer and Diane Young; Chris Seaberg and Tom Stevens; Carl Young and Marilyn Grossmeyer, and Linda Walters and Joe Sener;

Also, Rick and Jackie Lowy; Terry and Steve Horvath; Vic and Betty Mosley; Cheryl and Mike Hierl and George and Georgia Johnson.

Former staff members who soon will join the married list are Nancy O'Reilly and Frank Chlebek; Mike Nelson and Sue Pack.

Ready! Aim! Use — ranges ready

Thanks to 21 months of fund-raising projects, the Owasippe Scout Reservation will have two rifle range pavilions in time for use during the summer of 1986: one at Camp Blackhawk and another at Camp Carlen.

The Range Pavilion Project committee has announced that it has exceeded its first-year fund-raising goal of \$14,000.

Linda and Pat Monahan coordinated a garage sale which raised more than \$1,500. Ron Kulak and Pat (both members of the Owasippe Staff Association) organized the November phon-o-thon which raised more than \$12,000 in pledges. Jack Norman organized a raffle in January which raised more than \$1,000. The money raised will finance the construction of two L-shaped ranges, 60 feet long with space for eight firing stations. The pavilions also will provide a merit badge area and a locked storage facility.

The concrete pads have been poured. The Building Committee, headed by Tony Krier and Bob Bavirsha, is busy preparing equipment lists and purchasing materials.

This active Owasippe group also organized the May 16, 17 and 18 fix-it session at Owasippe.

**Owasippe Staff Association
Homecoming
August 1-3
at Owasippe
Call Mike at
312 - 385 - 9318**

"The beautiful surroundings alone make you feel peaceful. Listening to the sounds of the night, smelling the pine, watching the waves—it awakens your senses. Every time I come here I feel renewed."

Terry Horvath of Palos Heights, director of Owasippe's Camp Reneker family center, is witness to its soothing nature.

She's been renewing that spirit as camp director since 1976. During the past decade she's seen families come and go and schedule visits to repeat the "unique Owasippe experience."

The special camp is designed for scoutmasters' wives and their children. Male children over 11 are not permitted in the center; they vacation on the reservation with other Scouts and their dads.

Opened in 1964, the camp was organized so families could vacation together economically and as a way of thanking the fathers who volunteer their time and leadership to scouting.

Reneker's \$80-a-week rental fee provides families with a modern, two-bedroom, kitchen and living room cabin; access to an olympic-size pool, and a host of on-site activities such as boat-



ing, sailing, fishing, hiking, volleyball, tennis, arts and crafts and horseback riding. A supervised schedule of activities for adults and children also is available.

For children—and Mom's peace of mind—day camp activities are conducted from 9 a.m. until noon. Kids are divided according to age and supervised by experienced and "patient" camp

counselors, according to Terry. Mom can spend her free time doing aerobics, walking in the woods or relaxing in her cabin.

At noon, campers prepare their own lunches. Mealtime is followed by a one-and-a-half hour quiet time. And for the rest of the afternoon "it's full steam ahead" until dinner at 5 p.m., says Terry.

Evenings may be spent playing games, doing puzzles, square dancing, watching movies, going on "star hikes" or swimming. The clear, clean Michigan sky is a formidable backdrop to the nocturnal fun, Terry says.

Lights-out is at 11 p.m., and quiet time prevails until 7 the next morning.

"You're free to do what you want here; no one is required to participate in all the activities. We do ask that families abide by Owasippe and Michigan camping regulations," says Terry.

The underlying rule of Camp Reneker is "emphasis on the family. This is a time for families to spend together, to talk and have fun while communing with nature. At home, kids often must stay in the backyard. Here, they have an open, supervised area in which to play. They come away with many fond memories of camp. It's a rare child who doesn't fall in 'love' with his or her camp counselor," Terry says.

The Friday night farewell, in which campers circle a fire and perform skits for one another, is a time when families reflect on the funny and the fun experiences of the week. Few eyes are dry, says Terry, as campers quietly examine the bonds that have been formed—bonds among families friends and nature.

Though Camp Reneker is designed primarily for families involved in scouting, non-scouting families are also welcome.

Persons interested in the Reneker experience may contact the camping office of the Chicago Area Council Office, Boys Scouts of America, at 312-559-0990 for more information.

Wood Badge: a 'stupendous experience'

The week Marcie Hecht spent at Owasippe Scout Reservation two years ago working toward her Cub Scout Wood Badge was special.

"Stupendous," she says. "It's an experience that will never leave me."

Judith Kijewski describes her week in the program as "uplifting, a constant high."

Both agree the intense seven-day session put them in a different frame of mind — more involved, more committed, more confident.

The Cub Scout Wood Badge is advanced training for adults who already are in the role of training other adult leaders. Unlike the Boy Scout Wood Badge, which is training for leaders who work directly with Scouts, the program is designed for those who are one step deeper into the scouting hierarchy.

"Its primary goal is to give specialized training to those who train the adult leaders," explains Art Baldwin, Associate Regional Scouting Director.

Potential participants recommended by local councils must already have been through basic training and have completed the "training the trainers"

course. In Wood Badge they learn modern methods and advanced techniques for improving the quality of leadership, but not by attending a series of lectures or learning patterns to follow, Mr. Baldwin explains.

"The advanced training sessions involve the adults completely. The process of the training is important," he emphasizes.

Marcie Hecht, Cubmaster for the second time of Pack #4470 at St. Bede the Venerable on Chicago's Southwest side, learned more at the session than she anticipated.

"I learned that I can't do it all by myself — and that I don't have to," she says. "The training taught me to share responsibilities and to learn to take advantage of the talents of others."

Involved in scouting for 13 years, Ms. Hecht wishes she could have taken the course sooner than she did. "I might have been able to bring more to scouting," she says.

Judith Kijewski, a Round Table Commissioner starting her sixth year in scouting, was surprised by the experience.

"The program forces you to use your

head and your wits. In crisis situations I learned to utilize what I had. The training made me more sure of myself. It helped me personally as well as in my work with the Scouts," she says. "It was a mentally tough seven days, but it was worth it. I like me a lot better now."

Claudio Clemente, scouting coordinator at St. Ferdinand's on the Northwest side, earned his Wood Badge four years ago.

"It is a unique learning experience I highly recommend," he says. Mr. Clemente has been involved in scouting for over 20 years.

For Ms. Hecht, the best part of the program was "meeting the cream of the crop of scouting... The ideas that are bandied about are exciting and stimulating, and there was a good mixture of men and women at the session. I developed bonds and special friendships with people I otherwise would never have had a chance to meet."

The Cub Scout Wood Badge program is administered through regional offices with Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and West Virginia forming

the Midwest Region. Owasippe Scout Reservation has become a favorite camp for the training, but sessions are conducted in various camps in any of the six states each summer.

Cub Scout Wood Badge has been offered in the region for the past four years, and more than 400 trainers of adult leaders have attended. This year's session, scheduled June 14-20 at Owasippe, is already filled and has a waiting list. Next year, the region hopes to schedule two sessions.

Mr. Baldwin emphasizes the Wood Badge is not for everyone. Participants must be recommended by their local councils and the cost for the course is \$155.

But Marcie Hecht suggests that those who are involved in the scouting program look upon Wood Badge as a priority, not as a goal.

"Cub Scout Wood Badge is such a great accomplishment personally," she says, "that I hang my Wood Badge beads in full view — just so I can see them."

"The experience is special. I came away from that week with a feeling I will treasure forever."



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 21, 1986

I am pleased to send warm greetings to the Calumet and Chicago Area Councils of the Boy Scouts of America and all those celebrating the 75th anniversary of Camp Owasippe, the oldest continuously operated camp in the United States.

For the past three-quarters of a century, Scout troops, families, and senior citizens' groups have enjoyed Camp Owasippe's natural beauty and outstanding facilities. I commend all those who have helped build and maintain the camp. Thanks to your efforts, Scouting has been a richer experience for hundreds of thousands of boys.

Nancy joins me in congratulating the Boy Scouts on this milestone and in offering our best wishes for many more years of enjoyment at Camp Owasippe.

God bless you.

Ronald Reagan



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706

JAMES R. THOMPSON
GOVERNOR

May, 1986

Chicago Area Council
Boy Scouts of America
730 West Lake Street
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Greetings:

As Governor of Illinois I am pleased to join the Chicago Area Council of Boy Scouts of America in celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Camp Owasippe.

The oldest continuously operating Boy Scout Camp in the United States, Camp Owasippe has served thousands of Boy Scouts, families, and senior citizens. For 75 years Camp Owasippe has been the location of pleasant memories for many many people from our State.

On behalf of the more than 11 1/2 million people of Illinois, please accept my best wishes for a wonderful 75th Anniversary Celebration at Camp Owasippe, and my sincere wish that the Boy Scouts and other organizations from our State will be attending Camp Owasippe for many years to come.

Sincerely,
James R. Thompson
James R. Thompson
GOVERNOR

JRT/pm

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2791

ROBERT D. ORR
GOVERNOR

May 6, 1986

GREETINGS:

It is a great privilege to join the Chicago Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America and Indiana's Calumet Council as you celebrate Camp Owasippe's 75th Anniversary.

While you are celebrating this monumental occasion, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Camp Owasippe for its loyal service to our Scouts during the past 75 years. It is my hope that everyone will continue to support the Boy Scouts of America.

On behalf of the citizens of the State of Indiana, I would like to offer my best wishes for a most enjoyable and rewarding celebration.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Orr
ROBERT D. ORR
Governor

RDO:jsh

Happy Birthday, Owasippe!



Chicago Area Council - Boy Scouts of America
730 West Lake Street Chicago, IL 60606
312/559-0990

To My Fellow Scouters:

Owasippe Scout Reservation is a symbol of scouting history and a base for scouting's future. It is what we promise each of our new scouts as he enters scouting, the out-of-doors experience.

This Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the beginning of Owasippe is the seventy-fifth anniversary of scouting in the Chicago Area Council. Many wonderful events and people have gone before us at Owasippe and many more are yet to come.

Camping is coming of age with Cub Scouts and Explorers joining Boy Scouts in camping at Owasippe. Three-quarters of a century have gone by with over 300,000 youths attending camp and this is only the beginning.

The groundwork is laid, the commitment from the Council and its Executive Board is there. The commitment from the volunteers in every district and community is there. We are proud and prepared to move forward to the next century of scout camping.

Owasippe, we salute you and what you stand for.

Michael E. Tobin
President
Chicago Area Council

President
Immediate Past President
Executive Vice President
Council Commissioner
Vice Presidents

Cub Scouting
Boy Scouting
Exploring
Sea Scouting
In-School/Handicapped
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Finance
Fund Raising
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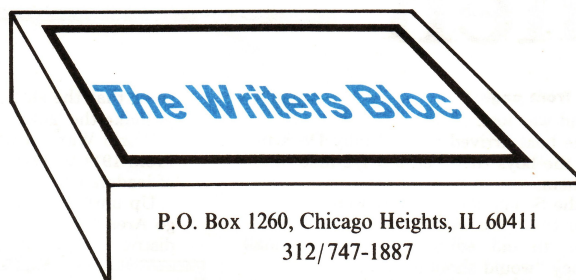
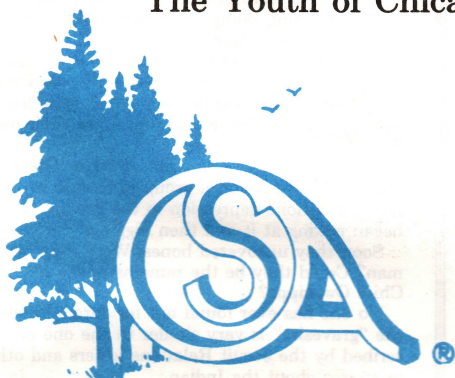
**We are proud to be part
of Owasippe's heritage.**

**Our best wishes for con-
tinued success in camping
and serving the youth of
America**



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The Owasippe Staff
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on its
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The Youth of Chicago



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Congratulations

On Your

75th Anniversary

Owasippe

"Thanks for the Memories"

From

Terry
Steve
Meg
Jennifer

Stephen
Curt
Jeffrey
Paul

Horvath

"Congratulations Owasippe on your 75th Anniversary"!



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Then

continued from page 1

sight of land was lost.

When the boat arrived at the Colby Dock in Whitehall, the boys then had a 3 1/2-mile hike ahead of them.

"When the Scouts landed, they were here—period!—for their two weeks," commented L. J. Berman in an old edition of the *Whitehall Forum*. They "would shoulder their packs...Then they'd step out, with a bugler tooting and the color bearers carrying the American flag and the troop pennon and out they'd march along the cedar block pavement as far as it went on Colby Street and then through ankle-deep sand all the way out to Crystal Lake road and then out to Crystal Lake."

Besides overtones of "roughing it," those first campers lived in a mildly military manner. Roll calls, drills, inspections and organization were the order of the day.

In at least one way, though, it paid off. The campers of 1912 constructed a pier on the lake. The work details had to haul the lumber and logs from the campsite down to the beach.

In 1912, 839 people came to Owaspippe. That figure includes visitors, leaders and Scouts.

The site was improved a great deal in 1913 with the addition of an administration building. It was built with lumber cut from "deadheads" or logs which had sunk to the bottom of White Lake years before.

The building housed a dining room, office, kitchen, ice house and cooling room—no stainless steel refrigerators in 1913. Tons of ice were cut from the lakes during the winter and stored for summer use.

In 1914, two weeks of camping with three meals a day and transportation cost \$10 per boy.

ALL CAMP RECORDS BROKEN

1300 campers in attendance at Owaspippe Scout camps in second period. Largest camp period on record.

From 1930 *Scoutcraft*

That season most of the military formality was dropped, but the boys still participated in drills and retreats.

Handicraft programs were introduced and the boys did more hiking and nature study. They could also go horseback riding.

Although for the first 40 years or so the boys got around at night by lantern, there was an electric generator at the camp to light the main building.

Whit Lloyd, camp historian, mentions that in 1915 Douglas "Dud" Schneider, a 14-year-old Scout, was hired to keep a one-cylinder gas engine going. The engine powered the generator: a wooden washing machine and a water pump.

"Dud" Schneider also told of "Cooks' Day Off" and one of the schemes the staff concocted to get the kids out of camp for the day:

Just as dinner was ending one evening, "two grubby staff men in prospector attire staggered in and dumped a sack full of 'gold' on the table. They told of finding a 'Mother Lode' in a sand dune south of the camp.

"Early the next morning everybody gathered grub and headed for the 'strike.'

"Assay offices were set up and tokens worth candy were exchanged for the 'gold.' Everything went fine but when the staff began to check the 'gold,' there was more of it than had been 'salted.' Some smart kids had found the can of gold

paint that the staff had been using on the rocks to make the 'gold.'"

World War I had its effect on Owaspippe.

From 1914 to 1918 there was often a shortage of leaders because of the draft.

Up until 1920, although there was one Chicago Area Council, it was composed of several districts: Northwest, Stockyards, Calumet, Hyde

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From 1926 *Scoutcraft*

Park, West Side, Douglas and North Shore.

Each of these had its own camp. Owaspippe was for North Shore Scouts.

The solution to the resulting confusion was to open two new camps at Whitehall: Camp West and Camp McDonald. The name "Camp Owaspippe" was changed to "Camp Beard."

Between 1925 and the Depression, camp development was very active. Acreage was acquired, new lodges were built. Several of the districts moved their camps to the Michigan site. A pioneer camp for older Scouts was established and home district had no bearing on admittance.

Activities included a photography darkroom. There was a wireless station operated by Morse code. Overnights were common and so were canoe trips on the White and Muskegon rivers.

The boys also helped out in town whenever an event or program needed policing or some other assistance.

In 1927, 6,200 camper weeks were recorded. That was also the year that the S.S. Carolina made her last Scout runs. After that the boys arrived by train.

The trek from the "train station"—a five-acre assembly area—followed Yellow Trail into camp. The hike is about 4 1/2 miles long.

On the eve of the Depression, the summer of 1929, 5,952 camper weeks were noted. The year before, two weeks in camp had cost a boy's parents \$15 and included meals and trainfare. A camper was allowed 10 cents a day for candy and pop.

The Depression

In 1931, seven camps were operating: Mc-

Owaspippe 75th

Donald, West, Beard, Blackhawk, the Family Camp (located at 248 Club in Deremo State Park), Checagau and Belnap.

Owaspippe continued to grow until 1932. That year the Depression finally caught up with the Scouts.

Camps Blackhawk and Checagau were operated jointly in 1932. Blue Lake carried on as usual, until 1933 when it was closed. Gerry Blake, however, took advantage of the situation by bringing his Troop 607 to the Blackhawk site and establishing a tradition of lone troop camping.

According to Lloyd, this was the very thing Owaspippe's founders had in mind. "Each troop supplies the entire program, supplying their own equipment, doing their own cooking, and doing their own thing with their own personnel." Prior to this and even afterward, all the camps had been run pretty much by camp staffers. This system was occasionally a little less than gracious to leaders who brought their own troops.

On a hill near the junction of Silver Creek and the White River, a group of Scouts in 1934 found a curious depression in the ground. They began poking at it and then digging.

Soon they uncovered bones. Were they human? Could they be the remains of the old Chief Owaspippe?

No one has ever found out for sure, although the "gravesite" is very similar to the one described by the Jesuit Relations letters and other stories about the Indian.

The Scouts chipped in to buy a granite stone to mark the site. For 25 years boys hiked to the spot to pay their respects.

By 1934 the economy was recovering and things perked up at camp. The most exciting event of 1935 was the evening the Camp Checagau dining hall, also known as Old Point Comfort Hotel, burned to the ground.

The Scouts formed a bucket brigade to control the fire and keep it from spreading into the forest.

In 1936, 6,206 Scout-weeks were logged.

In the late '30s, camping revived. New programs were started. Older campers, for instance, could use Adirondack shacks, tree houses, Indian teepees or camp on the beach. They learned the skills necessary to adapt to each site.

World War II

Things went well until the summer of '42. That was the first year of U.S. involvement in World War II. Activities had to be curtailed, but even so, improvements were made.

For one thing, covered pit latrines were replaced by concrete tanks which served as septic tanks. "True," says Lloyd, "it needed to have the water replaced every so often, but it was cleaner and less odorous."

The war brought rationing of food and scoutmasters. Many times troops came to camp without their leaders who had been drafted. Owaspippe provided a scoutmaster and a program.

By the end of the '40s, district camping had come to an end. So had two-week periods and district provisional camping.

The Fifties

Little by little the camp was becoming less primitive. Water for hot showers was heated by coal. But even in the early '50s, the boys still had to clean and trim kerosene lanterns.

Two Eagle Scouts of that era discovered a

continued on page 15

1916



"You begin volunteering for fun and finally you turn around and begin giving back what you've gotten."

Sheridan Nunn

Has a recent flurry of cleaning revealed old and yellowing copies of the *Scouter*? Has a trip to the attic unearthed an old Boy Scout uniform that only a kid could fit into?

Don't throw that stuff away. Don't call Goodwill to pick it up. Instead, call Sheridan Nunn.

Mr. Nunn, volunteer curator of the museum at Camp Owasippe, will be happy to pick up any kind of Scout artifacts and memorabilia.

"I just talked to a fellow who lives in Olympia Fields," Mr. Nunn said during an interview in his Villa Park home. "He's retiring and moving to Arizona. And he just found old Boy Scout patches and pins."

"This is how we get things for the museum. It's a shame when families see Boy Scout things and dump them."

To return scouting material to a final home in the museum, Mr. Nunn and others frequently find items in garage sales and even Boy Scout shows.

A prize item is a first-aid trophy that began circulating in 1912. Yearly winners had their names engraved on sterling silver pieces. Mr. Nunn wanted to locate the trophy because his troop had won the championship for several years.

Finally in 1982, the large and hefty

trophy, filled with sterling silver pieces (except for the World War II years when a lesser metal was used) was found at a Scout show in Arlington Heights.

It will be on display this summer at the museum along with hundreds of other items.

"The first-aid trophy is one of the oldest items in the museum, although we do have a printer's proof copy of the first Boy Scout handbook printed in 1910," Mr. Nunn said. "We have cases of Scout neckerchiefs."

"We have bound copies of *Scouting* magazine for leaders going back to 1913. And we have lots of mugs. Scouting is great for mugs," Mr. Nunn said with a laugh.

"We have walls filled with plaques made by troops. But to me," Mr. Nunn continued, "the old books are some of our most interesting items."

When we're in doubt about a date when a uniform change came about, we use these materials to research it."

Mr. Nunn takes up summer residence at Owasippe to oversee the activities of the museum. It's volunteer work on his part; the museum is self-supporting, and it is not a part of the Council budget. Some of the funds to maintain it are raised by selling mugs and museum patches. "We also have prints, post cards, stationery and a can for donations from visitors," Mr. Nunn said.

Those visitors include more than 1,500 people who stop to see the history of Chicago Boy Scouting preserved. "We get people off the highway," Mr. Nunn said, "and we're listed with the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce."

Visitors to the museum may be interested in the history of the building

itself. It's the original 1905 town hall for Blue Lake Township. "It's like a typical one-room schoolhouse," Mr. Nunn explained. "We moved it here and opened it in 1974 with Whit Lloyd as the full-time curator."

The building's early beginnings are still evident as visitors browse through an original voting booth that now houses part of the exhibits. The area set off for officials during town meetings is still marked by a raised platform and sturdy railings. Today Boy Scout mannequins, wearing uniforms of an earlier time, stand where village officials conducted meetings in this Michigan logging country.

A large portrait of Dan Beard, one of the founders of the Boy Scouts of America, looks down on museum visitors.

Why does Mr. Nunn, now 72 and retired from Commonwealth Edison Co., continue to volunteer his time?

"You start volunteering for fun and finally you turn around and begin giving back all you've gotten," he replied.

Mr. Nunn has been giving to the Chicago Boy Scouts since 1925. He began as a camper at Owasippe, going every year until 1932. As an assistant scoutmaster and as scoutmaster, he later worked summers at Owasippe. He has served as a district commissioner, leader at three national jamborees and one world jamboree, and he now serves on Camping Committee and Regional Committee. Mr. Nunn continues to work with the museum and the Order of the Arrow, an honor organization for older boys.

"It keeps me going," he said. "I enjoy the friends I've made. I go back generations now. I've presented the Eagle rank to sons of the boys I gave the Eagle to."

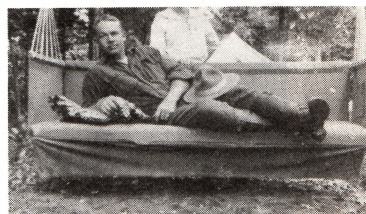
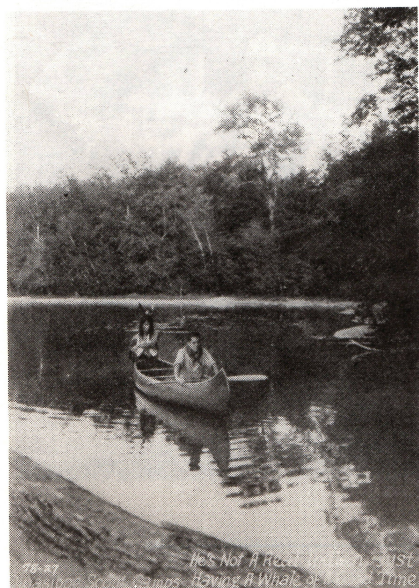
If visiting in the Owasippe area this summer, be sure to turn off the highway onto the camp reservation area and stop in to visit Mr. Nunn and the museum. He'll be waiting for you.

Sheridan Nunn



Owasippe 75th

Then



Did Owasippe really look like this? (left) Would photographs lie? In 1927, was that Chief Owasippe's son paddling a camper to a camp site? You decide. Campmaster J.P. Fitch really did take a midday rest on a camp hammock in 1916 when this was snapped. About the same time, a camper with high-laced boots stopped to take a good look at a mild-mannered turtle. Later, campers snapped to attention during a drill conducted during the 1916 camping season. Still wondering if Chief Owasippe really visited his namesake camp? Five campers from the early years know he did. They took time from camp activities to visit and hold still for this photo (below, left).



Owasippe memories...

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gravestone in 1958 which read "OUACIPI XVI." Mike Baldwin and Bill Petrossi reported their find and all the staff members who inspected it agreed that it was "old." The location of the stone slab fit the description of Owasippe's burial site, much as the 1935 gravestone did.

The group decided to clean up the area, reset the stone and mark a trail to it. Thereafter, it was the official memorial to Chief Owasippe.

A Commissioners-In-Training program began in 1958. Steve Horvath and Larry McBride were its first directors.

About that time, Jim Marshall drew the first scaled contour map of the area. Marshall and the Trail Committee were also responsible for bobcat trails.

They "consisted of two dots, located in various spots, the middle limb of a tree, the trunk, the roots, sometimes one on each fork of a

SPECIAL ONE WEEK PERIOD FOR WORKING AND SUMMER SCHOOL SCOUTS

\$11. including transportation. Train leaves on Saturday morning, August 23rd. Period ends August 30th.

From 1930 Scoutcraft

small limb," writes Lloyd. "Reflective paint was used (the spots were invisible during the day) and a flashlight focused on it made it look like two cats eyes."

The test trail was laid out east of Camp Stuart. Following the trail by flashlight, the Scouts entered the woods. "One minor thing," Lloyd continued, "after a city block into the woods, there appeared a small sign in reflective paint, 'the end,' and no more 'eyes.' There was no return trail."

Since the spots were only visible 20 degrees on a side, the boys were pretty much lost. After a week of rounding up dozens of lost Scouts, the camp director painted the trail into Collins Field, so they could find their way back.

According to Lloyd, Marshall painted several miles of these trails, but they never became very popular with the Scouts' leaders.

The Sixties

Owasippe celebrated its 50th year in 1961. By then the camp was qualified to have its own post office. About 5,000 letters per week went through the office which was located in the administration building. The reservation director became the postmaster, and at that time Mrs. Willard Teall ran the office.

Also in 1961, an Indian Village Camp was set up. Third-year campers slept eight to a teepee. During the day they played lacrosse, learned to use bows and arrows and cooked Indian-style.

As Lloyd describes it, "A third-year camper could spend 48 hours in a genuine Indian village and was encouraged to bring nothing but his knife. He was to live in the type of housing that was common to his assigned tribe (Sioux - teepees; Potawatami - hogan; Iroquois - long house). He learned to cook without utensils and ate a variety of Indian dishes—roast corn, roots, snake—and made lacrosse sticks and played the

other tribes. Many Indian lore subjects were covered and the boy became a brave and was entitled to wear a feather. Bows and arrows were provided, or he could make his own. Deer and buffalo targets were provided. War canoes holding 10 boys were used."

Negotiations for the Wolverine site had begun in 1959. Early in 1962 the administration center was transferred from Owasippe Lake to the Wolverine Club House.

The mid '60s were a turning point in camping style. There were two new camps with 12 sites each the summer of '65. The sites were one to three acres in area. Each had its own water supply which serviced two flush toilets, two shower stalls, a urinal and a sink. Added to this were electric lights.

The boys in each campsite had a trading post, a lodge, swimming pool and boating area, while the staff had special housing.

A healthy economy and no major wars provided the \$3 million needed for a new administration center as well. It included a 14-bed hospital, a maintenance building, two rangers residences, an administration building, trading post, central lodge and chapel. The new food preparation center could handle an average of 2,000 meals a day, seven days a week.

The Family Camp also received new cabins, a lodge and swimming pools.

By mid-July of 1965 all of this was ready to be dedicated. Governors, Scout executives, corporate executives, judges and clergy attended the ceremony.

So did Josephine Hercik McCabe.

Like many other places and organizations with long histories, Owasippe has attracted one or two eccentrics.

Josephine Hercik McCabe grew up on a farm near the camp. She married, but after a while was divorced and moved back to the farm. She lived in a trailer there, across the road from the

farmhouse, and became a nonofficial camper.

During the '40s, Whit Lloyd recalls, the Order of the Arrow had a banquet after each ordeal session. Josephine got wind of these proceedings and after the cooks had gone to bed—but before the arrowmen got to the mess hall—she would "borrow" some of the sandwiches, cake and "bug juice." She also had a habit of raiding the camps' garbage dumps.

The campers and staff looked after Josephine through the years. They took her into town when necessary and when she could no longer

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OWASIPPE DAY — A NEW NATIONAL (?) HOLIDAY

To be celebrated at camp on Monday, August 25th

In official session the High Mucky Mucks of the Owasippe Scout Camps, Incorporated, have set aside as a new National holiday in the kingdom of Owasippe, the 25th day of August, 1930.

The official proclamation to the citizenry reads "To ye followers of Chief Owasippe in the Land of Michigan, be it known that the 25th day of August shall be set aside for riotous, hilarious fun and festivities with special eating and ye games and sports dating back to ye lumberjack days.

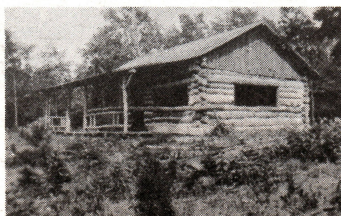
"Ye Camp Directors and ye Staff shall make special plans for the celebration that shall make every Boy Scout be particularly happy.

"Away with dull care!"

It is rumored that Chief Owasippe may even return from his grave to live up his old bones by participation in the fun. All "Old Timers" are invited to return to celebrate the big day for the Owasippe Scout Camps.

From 1930 Scoutcraft

Construction on Merit Badge Lodge began in 1916 as these Scouts were busy demonstrating their skills with an ax. The Lodge was used as the office for Camp McDonald and later for Camp Robert Stuart when McDonald was renamed in 1935. When the Lodge's fireplace began to fall down, the entire building was, for safety's sake, demolished.



Owasippe 75th



Then Owasippe memories...

The Owasippe Chant

Leader

Scouts come listen to my tale
Let it ring from every hill and dale
Leave your cities far behind
On the trail a whole new life you'll find

-Chorus-

Out where pines grow straight and tall
Where the rippling, singing waters fall
There you'll find our happy scouts
On the ancient, time-worn Indian routes

-Chorus-

Down stream flashes our canoe
O'er the waters flowing swift and true
White and Pine, and Manistee
All the streams of the Pottawatomie

-Chorus-

Praise our great and mighty chief
Let us sing his name and feel no grief
Once he ruled this wondrous land
Now the scouts have joined his loyal band

-Chorus-

Sing out loud and strong, with a heart that's brave and free
Let us sing our joyous, care-free song
Sons of Owasippe!!!

Scouts

Hail Owasippe!
Happy scouts are we
Hail Owasippe!
Sons of Owasippe

Hail Owasippe!
Happy scouts are we
Hail Owasippe!
Sons of Owasippe

Hail Owasippe!
Happy scouts are we
Hail Owasippe!
Sons of Owasippe

Hail Owasippe!
Happy scouts are we
Hail Owasippe!
Sons of Owasippe



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care for herself, they made sure she was settled into a good nursing home.

When she grew older, Josephine took to wearing a hearing aid, but she never put any batteries in it. So, if you went over to discuss something with her, you brought your own batteries and plugged her in. When the conversation was over, you took the batteries with you for the next time.

One wonders how this procedure worked the day a staffer drove by and spotted Josephine repairing the trailer roof in the rain with no clothes on. She managed to let him know she saw no point in getting her clothes wet, too.

When the Scouts decided to make an offer for the Hercik farm, the deal allowed that Josephine could stay on the property. She agreed, with two stipulations: first, a sign reading "This property protected by BSA" was to be placed near her home; second, the several-thousand-dollar-price was to be paid to her in cash--all in \$1 bills.

The bank provided space for her to count the money. Gossip had it that she buried the bills. Though many holes have been dug, no one has ever found Josephine's treasure.

She died in the late '70s.

Each camp at Owasippe had a P-X trading post. According to the 1961 edition of the *Forum*, the store carried camping equipment and

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Explorer Scout John S. Draper (middle) and Scoutmaster Ernest E. Childs talk with Rear Admiral Daniel V. Gallery during a visit to the Glenview Naval Air Training Station. The visit was in 1954 when Gallery, a former Boy Scout, accompanied Troop 309 to Owasippe Scout Reservation.

Owasippe memories...

"This information was gathered from many sources. Some of our brothers reported accurately; some with many embellishments; some reported with forked tongues. While the tale reports as accurately as possible, it may contain some tall tales, legends and altered facts beyond our control."

So sayeth the aging Sachem, recorder of history and happenings on the Owasippe Scout Reservation.

An octogenarian, Whit Lloyd still returns to camp, sharing quarters and tales with Museum curator Sheridan Nunn—who, at 72, is still a "youngster." Lloyd regales listeners with stories culled from many sources: word of mouth; old magazines, newspapers and records; visits to museums and historical societies. The latter included the Michigan Historical Society, Smithsonian Institute, Jesuit Relations Letters, Chicago Historical Society, Montague Museum, Muskegon Museum and, of course, the Owasippe Museum. (He was the museum's first curator.)

Whit Lloyd, a lad of 12 back in Rochester, N.Y., became a "Lone Scout" in 1916 when there weren't troops around for many phases of scouting. His scouting experiences were few until years later, when he completed requirements as an Eagle. He became a brave in 1944 and was received into the Moqua (Bear) tribe of the Owasippe Lodge in 1945.

In 1952, Lloyd became a Chief



and received the name "Na'ju-man," which means "Burden Bearer" or "he shoulders his brother's burden." Then, as an aging Sachem, he was assigned the task of recording the history.

His Scout honors and "trophies" became too numerous to list as he traveled through the years and through the councils (seven saw his service). His first experience taking "little monsters," as he fondly calls his "boys," to camp began during the war (W.W. II, that is) years when he stood in for a scoutmaster who was drafted. He made the long trek from Chicago's Southwest Suburbs up to Whitehall, Mich., ever after. He weathered the weather, fires and primitive

living conditions and finally, several years ago, installed a stereo system in his camp quarters "to make it livable."

Lloyd is now retired from an active career as an inventor (he holds a dozen patents for photocopyers and several for military timing devices, and he invented the aerial camera used during reconnaissance flights during W.W. II, as well as a Mach indicator). But he keeps busy "giving talks to groups" about scouting, making presentations at Scout awards ceremonies, working around his home and, of course, going to camp. And, there's an occasional leisurely afternoon spent reminiscing over an ice cream cone at the Plush Horse near his Palos Park home.

A 'tale'

On a canoe trip, a young Scout awoke to find a "puff adder" in his sleeping bag. He picked it up and put it in his mess kit and brought it back to camp. (Bringing specimens back meant earning points towards awards.)

When the staff men took the mess kit, it rattled. After gingerly transferring the specimen to a large container, it was found to be a Massanga rattler about three feet long with several rattles on its tail.

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Scout gear as well as candy, pop and ice cream. The boys could also buy postcards or stationery, handicraft items and toilet articles "to replace those dropped in the dirt or left at home."

Over the years, the boys also received training in conservation. They replanted an area called "Grasshopper Hill" which had once been cut-over waste.

According to Whit Lloyd's 1980 account, the all-time attendance record was set during the summer of 1967 with 10,003 boy-weeks.

The Seventies

Buildings and campsites have changed almost constantly throughout Owasippe's history.

Beard Dining Hall went down in 1968. In 1969, Sauger Lake Camp opened. In 1970, Camp West Dining Hall was demolished. The next year Camp Robert Crown was dedicated.

Program changes also occurred involving the Outpost, Horse Corral and Indian Village camp around 1972. Horse Corral included an overnight horseback ride to Deer Meadow.

Before they could relax, the boys had to attend to their horses. Once that was done they had supper or "chow" off the back of the chuck wagon.

After a campfire, they bedded down on the ground, using their saddles as pillows.

A completely new addition to camp life was the Owasippe Museum. Dedicated in 1973, the museum was housed in the Old Town Hall. The first object deposited was the 1935 Owasippe gravestone.

Whit Lloyd was the first curator.

The Eighties

Owasippe now has a total of nine camps—three of them lone troop, two dining halls, three hot-pack troop sites and one family camp. (See stories elsewhere for additions and improvements.)

In his history of the Owasippe Scout Reservation, Whit Lloyd tells of the Scout who regaled his mother with his latest adventures hiking and canoeing:

"We went to Deserters Cave, near Suicide Oak, then started down the river near Lost Scout Bayou; spent the night at Poison Spring; and started again in the morning, passing Rattlesnake Point.

"We ate lunch at Deadman's Rollway; then visited the grave of the Unknown where the sign said he had been found under a pile of logs."

The poor mother turned to the closest scoutmaster and asked for assurance that camp was really safe.

Put two former Owasippe campers in a room alone and they'll reminisce over dozens of similar stories and place names. It's the romance of camping.

It's what a boy remembers long after the discomfort of bug bites, humidity and homesickness have faded.

By the way, in case you've forgotten, "Deuces Wild" was a shack on Owasippe property. The original burned down during a card game brawl, says Lloyd. "And the latest place to burn in the vicinity becomes the New Deuces Wild." There have been seven.

Can you name them?

Now & Then

Mom and Me...

continued from page 2

hand-crafted badges were decorated circles of leather, signifying the wearer's triumph: the cooking badge displayed a match and a bit of tinfoil; the swimming badge sported a white candy Life Saver wrapped in red yarn. For participating in aerobics at 6:30 every morning, her badge carried a picture of a dumbbell.

Delighted with his adventuresome parent, Mike told her: "I'm real proud of you, Mom."

Reflecting upon her week, Ms. Barretto recounted its pluses:

"The experiences were diverse and totally new. I'm a Chicago-restaurants-movies-and-plays person, so this was a new piece of the world for me to explore. I learned a lot about myself.

"Also, it was a chance to spend concentrated amounts of time with my son, doing and learning together. It was nice knowing you didn't have to be good at everything and there were times when

my son was the teacher. At home, it's usually the other way around. I still can hear Mike saying, 'Hold it this way, Mom.'"

On Friday night the campers gathered for a farewell banquet and ceremony. After dinner, they conducted a candlelight walk to a bluff overlooking the lake and returned in churchlike silence to camp, where they gathered around a roaring fire.

The fire's glow lighted the stage for a Moms-and-Me talent show, and the Barrettos recited a poem about their week at Owaspippe. Before the fire died that night, everyone had a lump in the throat and the tingle of a moving experience.

"It was fabulous," Ms. Barretto recalled.

Yes, there will be a Mom-and-Me 1986. More information may be obtained by telephoning the camping department of the Chicago Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, 312-559-0990.



Now — filled with then



Today
at Owaspippe



Troop
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1916
Pageant



Owaspippe 75th

Neighbors...

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have been impressive on both sides.

The original 40 acres of the camp were donated by the Chamber in 1910. By 1912, the mess hall was completed and when the first Scouts arrived from Chicago on the S.S. Carolina, the business community welcomed them as they marched from the dock, through town and out to the campsite on Crystal Lake.

One of the first problems the Scouts encountered that year was phone service on the site.

In an emergency, the four miles of wilderness that lay between camp and town could become critical.

The problem was that the Scouts didn't have the funds necessary to pay the telephone company for installation. They approached the Chamber and a solution was worked out.

That summer, the boys cut and set telephone poles.

Then they strung the wire and insulators that had been purchased by the Chamber. When that was done the phone company hooked up the telephone.

"Over the years, we have had a tremendous relationship with the town and Chamber," said Stephen J. Horvath, Jr., vice president of the Chicago Council and chairman of the Camp Development and Properties Committee. "We have also developed a very close working relationship with Blue Lake Township. Many of the area's residents once lived in Chicago."

For many years, Dr. Horvath has been instrumental in getting the director of camping together with the Whitehall community.

While the local officials have been eager to assist the camp, the Scouts individually and as a group have also taken part in community affairs.

Dr. Horvath explained how Owasispe has become a prime supporter of the volunteer fire department:

"The camp has helped with donations of equipment and personnel," he said. "All year round our camp rangers help maintain the equipment. And in the summer 150 Scouts assist with staffing."

Owasispe has also taken part in developing zoning policies for the area. It has lobbied at the township and county levels to improve sanitation standards.

In return, local government "has helped us develop a realistic assessed valuation of our property and a tax relief program," said Dr. Horvath.

On the commercial side, Mr. Klinefelter credits the camp with creating more retail business for Whitehall.

"The Scout camp does a lot of its purchasing within the community," he said.

He added that the major portion of the camp's craft items are bought at the Ben Franklin store. Mr. Klinefelter, in turn, spends time at the camp during the summer helping leaders produce craft projects.

Owasispe is staffed year-round with six people who have become involved personally with Whitehall. So the effect of the camp is felt in all four seasons, whether it's in session or not.

In the spring and fall extra groups of



Planting trees on Snake Hill kept this group of Scouts busy at Owasispe's spring camp in 1926. Today's campers still enjoy the work they did.



campers come up to Owasispe. During the winter, it becomes a recreation area used by the locals for cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and ice fishing.

"All the camp requires is that you obtain a permit," said Mr. Klinefelter. "It has been a real asset to our community."

An early account of the camp's history called Owasispe the "baby" of the business community.

Today, with 7,000 acres, nine camps and an average of 5,000 campers during a seven-week season, Owasispe seems to have grown into a good-hearted, strapping youth ready to help out with the chores, but still needing occasional guidance from the elders.

That same early account said that to Whitehall in 1910, Owasispe meant a new industry, youthful spirits and added life to a struggling recreation industry.

If the Scouts and the townspeople of today have anything to say about it, the future looks like more of the same mutually beneficial relations.

"They're good neighbors," said Mr. Klinefelter of Owasispe.

"We hope we'll have many more years of camping in Michigan," added Dr. Horvath.

Owasispe 75th

You are invited
to a
Birthday Dinner Party
to celebrate
Owasispe's 75th Anniversary
August 4, 1986

Sponsored by
Whitehall Chamber of Commerce
Whitehall, Michigan



From 1930 Scoutcraft



Owasippe,
we salute you

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